

## REFERENCES AND REVIEWS

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heart and kidneys, and will result eventually in a form of atherosclerosis. We have also shown previously, and confirmed in the present study in a larger series, that such diets will prolong the clot-lysis times as compared with rats on normal diets. In addition, it is demonstrated that the freezing and storing of plasma samples in liquid nitrogen at  $-195.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ . ( $-320.0^{\circ}\text{F}$ .) does not alter this diet-induced prolongation of clot-lysis times. It is suggested that storage of plasma in liquid nitrogen for future analysis is a practical means of preserving specimens collected at different times and from widely separated geographic areas.

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**SODIUM METHICILLIN IN ROUTINE THERAPY**—R. W. Fairbrother and G. Taylor. *Lancet*—Vol. 1:473 (March 4) 1961.

Sodium methicillin is effective against both penicillin-sensitive and resistant strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* and has marked bactericidal activity. Weight for weight, it is about 100 times less active than penicillin G against sensitive strains and about eight times less active than erythromycin against most strains. Resistance to methicillin develops readily in vitro; it has to be given intramuscularly at 4- to 6-hour intervals and has a relatively low grade of activity. Its use should be reserved for unusually resistant strains of *Staphylococcus aureus*.

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**ADMINISTRATION OF OXYGEN**—J. A. C. Ball. *Lancet*—Vol. 1:591 (March 18) 1961.

The efficiency of oxygen administration employing an oxygen tent, a mask, and the Tudor Edwards spectacles was examined, using the level of arterial oxygen saturation as a criterion. The mask was found to be significantly better than

the tent or the Tudor Edwards spectacles; but the spectacles were found to raise arterial oxygen saturation a little higher than an oxygen tent. Reasons for preferring the Tudor Edwards spectacles as a general method of oxygen administration are given.

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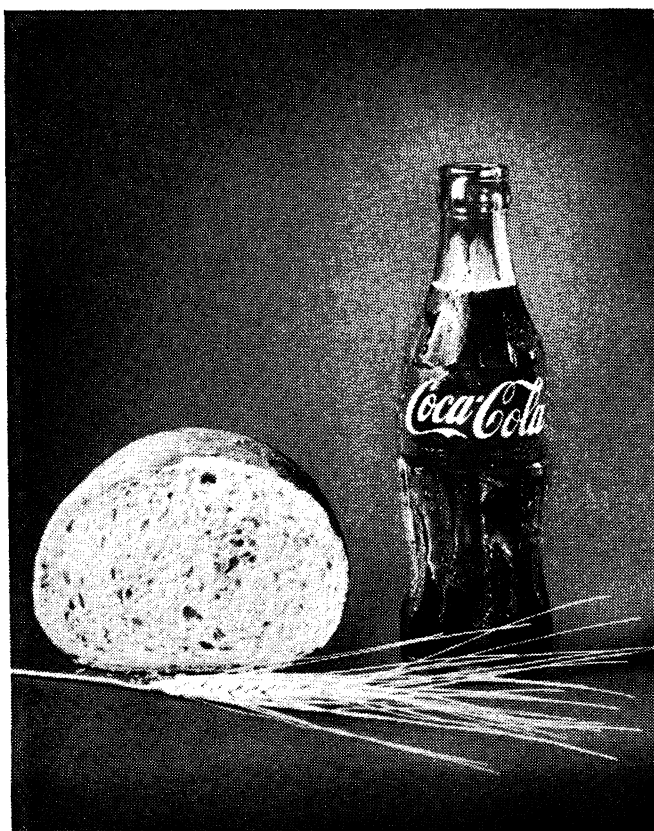
**EFFECT OF FASTING ON LEVELS OF PLASMA NONESTERIFIED FATTY ACIDS IN NORMAL CHILDREN, NORMAL ADULTS, AND OBESE ADULTS**—J. Corvilain, H. Loeb, A. Champenois, and M. Abramow. *Lancet*—Vol. 1:534 (March 11) 1961.

The plasma level of nonesterified fatty acids (NEFA) was found to be higher in children than in adults after an overnight fast of 14 hours. Prolonging the fast for five hours led to an increase in the NEFA level in both groups; this increase was significantly greater in children than in adults. The finding that children respond to fasting with a marked rise in plasma NEFA might be due to high growth-hormone activity. Obese adults have a higher plasma NEFA level than normal adults after overnight fasting. Prolonging the fast for five hours was not followed by any significant rise in plasma NEFA levels. These data emphasize the abnormal metabolism of fatty acids in overweight adults.

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**POSTURAL HYPOTENSION AS THE PRESENTING SIGN IN CRANIOPHARYNGIOMA**—J. E. Thomas, A. Schirger, J. G. Love, and D. L. Hoffman. *Neurology*—Vol. 11:418 (May) 1961.

A case of craniopharyngioma is described in whom the presenting symptom, for over a year, was postural hypotension. Subsequent development of stress headache, diabetes insipidus and visual field defects established the diagnosis. The differential features of the case are discussed. Search for a space-occupying intracranial lesion should be a part of an investigation in every patient with postural hypotension.



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